

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for guiding sutures through a membrane wall near the edge region of an opening provided thereon. The present invention includes three elements, arranged one behind the other along a common longitudinal axis. The first element, which is
5 provided at the distal end of the said element arrangement, is coupled via an inner sleeve to a first retaining or rotary element provided at the proximal arrangement end. The second element, being directly adjacent to the first element, is connected to an outer sleeve, which encloses the inner sleeve, and is connected to a second retaining or rotary element provided at a distance from the first retaining or rotary element in the direction
10 of the distal arrangement. The third element of the element arrangement is directly adjacent to the second element and is connected to a third retaining or rotary element provided at a distance from the retaining or rotary element in the direction of the distal arrangement. The present invention also includes a first spring device provided between the first retaining or rotary element and the second retaining or rotary element, and a
15 second spring device provided between the second retaining or rotary element and the third retaining or rotary element, such that the three retaining or rotary elements are forced away from another with the result that the three elements of the element arrangement are forced together.